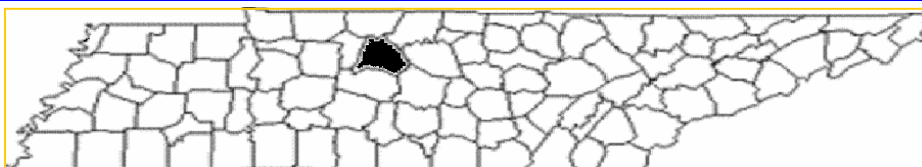


# The Status of Women in Decatur County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN DECATUR COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	43.40	34
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,155	70
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	77.7%	12
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	38.8%	76
Female Unemployment Rate	6.6%	57
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	39.8%	2
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	55.75	66
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	29.8%	9
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	11.4%	33
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	65.7%	70
Female High School Dropout Rate	6.5%	44
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	89.1%	74
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	17.1%	63
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	10.7%	69
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	42.8	84

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Decatur County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## DECATUR

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ The average annual earnings of a woman in Decatur County are \$20,155 and rank seventieth among the ninety-five counties. However, the county does rank twelfth in the wage gap between men and women, with women earning 77.7% as much as full-time working males in the county.
- ◇ Women comprise 42.4% of the workforce in Decatur County, but the female unemployment rate is 6.6%, much higher than the county's overall unemployment rate (3.0%).
- ◇ 39.8% of working women in Decatur County are employed in managerial and professional positions. Only 19.7% of all employed county residents work in these occupations.

### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 29.8% of private companies in the county are owned by women but 4.0% of sales and receipts in the county come from those women-owned businesses.
- ◇ With a female high school dropout rate of 6.5%, only 65.7% of Decatur County women have a high school diploma. Only 63.6% of all county residents have a high school-level degree, much lower than the overall Tennessee percentage (75.9%).
- ◇ Only 11.4% of women have a four-year college degree, but this is a higher percentage than that of the entire county (7.3%).
- ◇ 17.1% of women in Decatur County make below poverty level wages.
- ◇ Though 13.8% of all families in the county live below poverty level, 36.5% of families with a female householder and no husband present live below poverty level.
- ◇ The adolescent pregnancy rate in Decatur County is at 42.8 out of 1,000, much higher than the 25.7 of Cannon County.
- ◇ 51.9% of eligible voters in the county are women, but only 6 out of 25 elected county officials are women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Decatur County

		<b>Decatur County</b>	<b>Rank of Decatur County</b>	<b>Highest Ranking County</b>
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Median Annual Earnings for FT Females</b>	\$20,155	70	Williamson: \$32,243
	<b>Wage Gap</b>	77.7%	12	Davidson: 82.1%

<b>Employment</b>	<b>Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate</b>	38.8%	76	Rutherford: 50.9%
	<b>Female Unemployment Rate</b>	6.6%	57	Pickett: 1.5%
	<b>Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations</b>	39.8%	2	Anderson: 44.6%
	<b>Women Owned Business % of Total</b>	29.8%	9	Moore: 63.3%

<b>Education</b>	<b>% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better</b>	11.4%	33	Williamson: 39.5%
	<b>% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)</b>	65.7%	70	Williamson: 90.6%
	<b>Female Dropout Rate</b>	6.5%	44	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

<b>Lifestyles</b>	<b>% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age</b>	89.1%	74	Williamson: 100%
	<b>% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes</b>	17.1%	63	Williamson: 5.4%
	<b>% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty</b>	10.7%	69	Williamson: 2.5%
	<b>Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000</b>	42.8	84	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Decatur County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties